

Martinez-Lopez, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Duckworth, John W. Hickenlooper, Amy Klobuchar, Jeanne Shaheen, Brian Schatz, Benjamin L. Cardin, Edward J. Markey, Alex Padilla, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 6.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Maria Araujo Kahn, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 6, Maria Araujo Kahn, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Margaret Wood Hassan, Brian Schatz, Tina Smith, Elizabeth Warren, Tim Kaine, Ron Wyden, Patty Murray, Richard Blumenthal, Chris Van Hollen, Martin Heinrich, Jack Reed, Christopher A. Coons, Alex Padilla, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin.

Mr. SCHUMER. And finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, February 13, be waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now, for my remarks, first and foremost, I begin today as happy as I could possibly be. Last week, my daughter Alison and her wife celebrated the birth of little Henry—their first child, my third grandchild.

The tie I am wearing today is the very same tie I wore on the day my daughter and her wife got married. The last time I wore this same tie on the floor of the Senate was the day the Respect for Marriage Act passed the Senate. So it is not only a great tie, but it is a really great day, and it symbolizes a whole lot.

I want to thank everyone for their messages of support. I am pleased to report both moms and the baby are doing just great. He is such a little cutie.

Few things put this job in perspective quite like being a grandparent. I have often said that after my first grandkid Noah was born—it was about 2 weeks later—I took a bike ride through the wetlands near Coney Island. It is on the southern shore of Brooklyn. The Atlantic Ocean laps up on it, and it is beautiful. I love that ride, but 2 weeks after Noah was born, as I was riding, it hit me like a bolt: Will Noah one day get to enjoy this beautiful, beautiful bike path like I have? Because if the ocean rises even a few inches, this bike path will be gone.

Having grandkids like that reminds you of what we are fighting for: a better life for them, a better globe for them, a better world for them. It is a motivation unlike any other.

Well, I could go on, but suffice it to say that today CHUCK SCHUMER is one happy grandparent, and I am grateful for everyone's kind words over the past few days.

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Madam President, now, on another subject, over the weekend, U.S. forces shot down three unknown objects that entered U.S. and Canadian airspace that were deemed to pose a potential threat to civilian aviation. At the moment, we only have preliminary details. I have scheduled for Senators to receive a briefing tomorrow on what we know and do not know about where these objects come from and what threats, if any, they pose to the United States.

So that is tomorrow. I believe, and my office can check me on this, it will be at 10 a.m., but we will send a notice out so people can check the time.

I commend President Biden and all our servicemembers who acted quickly to shoot these objects down before they endangered American aircraft or civilians. Unlike the balloon shot down last week, these objects demanded a swift response to ensure they didn't get in the way of commercial jets or pose any other risk on the ground.

The American people can rest assured that our defense and intelligence Agencies are focused like a laser to determine where these objects came from and what their capabilities were.

And while there is still plenty that we don't know about this past weekend's events, in the case of the Chinese balloon, we do know now that it was not the first time Chinese surveillance balloons entered U.S. airspace. It has been confirmed that three balloons

flew over the United States during the previous administration without detection. China's deployment of these balloons is brazen.

I bring this up to emphasize that this issue is bigger than any one administration and should be free from partisan sniping.

Congress is going to conduct a careful, bipartisan examination of these various incidents and also look into why U.S. authorities didn't find these Chinese surveillance balloons sooner. My friend Senator TESTER has been taking the lead in this effort. I want to commend him for his leadership.

And so as we recover the items shot down over the weekend, I once again commend the President, and I fully support the Senate taking a thorough look at finding out why it took so long to find these balloons. It is something we must do because, as I mentioned, three of them occurred during the Trump administration, and the authorities knew nothing about them.

I, finally, want to thank our servicemembers for their excellent work, and Congress is going to work in the coming weeks to get the full story of what happened and how we keep the American people safe.

DEBT CEILING

Madam President, now, on the debt ceiling, last week, President Biden distilled the sharp contrast between the Democratic and Republican approaches to the debt ceiling. And in the days since that, Republicans have made that contrast even sharper.

Democrats have been clear about our position—very clear, crystal clear. We must raise the debt ceiling cleanly, in a bipartisan fashion, without blackmail or brinksmanship or hostage-taking.

House Republicans have taken a different and far more dangerous approach. Rather than affirm the need to raise the debt ceiling together, House Republicans are trying to force the rest of the country into a perilous game of chicken, threatening to withhold their support for lifting the debt ceiling unless everyone agrees to spending cuts first.

But to this day—to this day—despite more than a month of questioning, House Republicans won't answer one question: What cuts do they want? Where is their plan?

House Republicans, where is your plan?

I say to House Republicans, enough with the games. Show us your plan. You say you want cuts—well, what are they? You have an obligation not only to show us but the American people what they are. These could be quite dangerous to tens of millions, even hundreds of millions of Americans.

Are House Republicans going to put Social Security and Medicare on the table in exchange for the debt ceiling?

Well, last week, Republicans erupted like wild hornets during the State of the Union when President Biden pointed out the obvious: that many within